

## **PPC meeting Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Apologies from BW

Attending FrM, MOD, KS, ML, SB, BT, TM

### **MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING MATTERS ARISING**

#### **RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS AT CHURCH**

At the last PPC meeting it was agreed that there was a need to recruit new readers and welcomers for all the Masses and more volunteers at Church to help in all aspects of Parish life. Since then, it was suggested that we do a series of flyers as a recruitment drive, concentrating on one aspect of Parish life every two weeks. The flyers have already started with the Flower arrangers' flyer and they have already recruited two new volunteers. KS has also produced a display for the noticeboards at the back of Church to highlight parish groups and how to get involved.

#### **THE THOUGHTFUL LIVING GROUP**

The screening of the Letter took place on 28<sup>th</sup> April – and was very well received. Some visitors (non parishioners) had seen the poster that the Thoughtful Living Group had put up in the Sonning Common Library and had come along to the screening.

The TLG have several things in the pipeline and would like to coordinate a sale of produce with the Shared Lunch at the Parish Weekend. In addition, a plant sale and seed swap are planned for Spring next year. They are also proposing a food collection for Readifood during Harvest festival.

Work towards the CAFOD accreditation for the Live Simply award is going well. It is hoped the TLG will be able to produce a vegetarian/vegan cook book in an effort to encourage people to eat less meat.

The Season of Creation and the International World Day of Peace occur in September – 21<sup>st</sup> September and it is hoped that some activity or project can be organized for this time to also coordinate with the parish patronal feast. One idea suggested by KS was a booklet of prayers for peace that could be produced in time for the International World day of prayer.

The recycling bins are up and being used by parishioners which is very positive. The TLG have arranged a rota of their volunteers to empty the bins.

#### **ECUMENICAL EVENTS**

The Safari Supper has had to be postponed as one of the main organisers has had a bereavement. KS had no more information of a revised date.

#### **ANNOINTING CEREMONY**

It is hoped that this will take place on Sunday October 15<sup>th</sup> at every Mass. Those parishioners that would like to be anointed, can be anointed either at Church or at home. During Mass the anointing

would take place before the bidding prayers. The conditions for anointing are if a person is dangerously ill or requires dangerous surgery and those that have grown frail under the burden of age. It was agreed that the parish What's app group would be used to ask for volunteers for the Mass and be used to ask for volunteers to offer transport to parishioners who might need help getting to the Masses. The wheelchairs in the Church and Hall would be made available for use during the Masses.

**YOUNG WIVES GROUP** - This is still pending.

**NEW KITCHEN** - The diocese have agreed to the costs involved, but the work schedule has been delayed due to the personal reasons of the contractor.

**BEREAVEMENT GROUP** - It was agreed that this would be discussed further when KS has had a chance to talk with the group at St Anne's to discuss their working model.

## **ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

### **RESPONSE TO THE ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER**

It was agreed that we would need to work through the questionnaire in the Archbishop's letter – and to involve more people than in this committee, including young people in order to get a range of views. It was suggested that like the synod we would need to have an event for parishioners in order to discuss the Archbishop's thoughts. It was felt that the questions were very challenging and therefore someone perhaps BT would need to come up with the key questions based on the themes put forward by the Archbishop– It was suggested that the Parish already do a lot of things suggested in the Archbishop's letter such as the Children's liturgy, helping with the Food Bank, The Thoughtful Living Group and the Open Day we had last year. Most of these activities are on-going and it was agreed that we could organise another Open day. FrM said it was essential to provide and share practical examples on the main themes of formation, liturgy, worship, social outreach and evangelisation.

It was agreed that we should not be overwhelmed by the content of the letter/questionnaire –the PPC feel that the works we already do in the parish are on the right lines. FrM suggested that we might have a carol service open to the wider community which could be used as an ecumenical event – this could take place 1-2 weeks before Christmas.

In addition, KS suggested that perhaps a living nativity could be organized by the Churches in the area. DBT agreed to mention this idea at the next Ministers' meeting.

### **MAY PROCESSION**

The May procession was a great success with a procession at school and one at Church. The parents and children from St Martin's were very engaged – the boys wore blue sashes and the girls wore veils.

**MARY'S MEALS** – it appears that we no longer have a representative from Mary's meals in the Parish.

### **PARISH SOCIAL EVENTS**

The Family game's afternoon on 21<sup>st</sup> May was another huge success with over 30 children and parents attending and it is hoped to repeat the event in Spring next year.

KS put a note in the newsletter asking the parishioners what they would like in terms of social events.

She received two responses, one asking for another Ceilidh and the other asking for another countryside walk and visit to a Church eg. To Stonor again.

Fr M suggested we might like to walk to the Oratory School in Woodcote and have a picnic and have a service in their Chapel.

### **FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION SERVICES**

Plans are in place and the preparation is going well. DW has been asking for volunteers via the Parish What's app to help with the teas and coffees after the Mass and has had a good response.

### **ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

#### **PATRONAL WEEKEND**

It is hoped that Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will give a talk on Friday evening and Saturday morning. KS asked if there was a plan B if Fr Paul suddenly became unavailable – DBT said he would look into this. TM suggested it might be nice to have a female speaker and it was suggested that perhaps one of the community from Littlemore could be asked.

DBT will look into whether the Ceilidh group is available, and KS will look into hiring the Peppard War Memorial Hall to host the Ceilidh on the Saturday evening as it was felt the PWM hall allowed for more space for sitting and dancing than our own Church Hall.

There would be a charge for tickets to cover the cost of the hall and band hire.

MOD will liaise with volunteers to coordinate the shared lunch and the produce sale in aid of CIRDIC.

#### **HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE YOUTH OF THE PARISH/COMMUNITY**

A discussion was had as to how as a Parish we can engage with the youth within the parish and the wider community.

It was commented that we really need the help of someone with a track record of working with young people. It was noted that it is difficult to reach children of secondary school age in the parish as the schools they attend are spread widely across two counties. It was noted that perhaps we could write to the children to get their input. It was noted that we would need an additional team of people to be involved to reach the young people of the parish.

It was agreed that this topic should again be included in the agenda for the next meeting and that PPC members might like to go away and research ideas and bring their suggestions on how to engage young people, to the next meeting.

**AOB****DBS**

ML reported that the diocese are holding a series of zoom seminars as an introduction/refresher to safeguarding. The sessions last 1 1/2 hours and it was agreed that KS would advertise the seminars in the newsletter and ML would be available to talk to anyone if they are interested.

**MULTICULTURAL MASS**

FrM suggested that the Parish have a Multicultural Mass, he has already spoken with YM who has agreed to sort out welcomers, readers and the offertory procession. It has been suggested that The Mass is followed by a bring and share lunch and it was agreed this should all take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**CLOSING PRAYER** – led by Fr M

The dates of the next meetings were agreed as Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July and Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August in the Presbytery

